

Mirid Bug, *Creontiodes biseratense* (Distant) damage on Cotton in Coimbatore

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During the month of December 2006, mirid bug infestation was observed in an epidemic form in CICR, Regional Station Farm, Coimbatore on Bt cotton hybrids. The insect both nymphs and adults damage developing flower buds and tender bolls. One to two days old bolls with dried petals intact provide a good habitat to the insects for feeding and sheltering. The characteristic symptoms of feeding on the flower bud shows oozing out of yellow fluid from the buds and staining of this yellow fluid on the inner surface of the bracts. Infested tender bolls have number of black patches on all sides of the outer surface of boll rind. It was observed shedding of most of the damaged tender bolls. Adults are swift fliers and brown in colour. Nymphs are small with yellowish green abdomen and fast moving when disturbed. It was estimated that damage leading to shedding of tender bolls for two days period revealed a loss of seed cotton yield by 51.4, 94.8, 134.3, 73.1, 59.3, 86.9 and 90.8 kg/ha in RCH 2 Bt, RCH 20 Bt, MECH 184 Bt, Bunny Bt, Mallika Bt, RCHB 708 Bt and MRC 6918 Bt, respectively.



Mirid adult feeding on tender boll



Mirid Nymph